



# E-Legislative Update

March 15, 2010

Last week, the legislature adjourned. Shortly after adjourning the 60-day regular session, Gov. Chris Gregoire called for a special session. The Governor urged the Legislature to focus the special session on balancing the budget, including coming to an agreement on the dollar amount of new revenues to be generated by the state, funding for public employee benefits, funding for General Assistance-Unemployable health program, and deciding on the partial or complete closure of certain prisons and certain institutions caring for the developmentally disabled. In addition, the House and Senate will be working on passing job-creating legislation. The seven day special session begins today at noon.



The legislature passed the following bills and issues of interest to the Asian Pacific American community last week.

**Week Nine Highlights:** The following bills passed the legislature during week nine and have been delivered to the Governor for her signature (unless otherwise noted):

#### Highlights of legislative discussion on **EDUCATION**:

- [SB 6696](#) Regarding education reform. This legislation positions Washington for Race to the Top federal funds. To compete for these funds, states must demonstrate high academic standards and rigorous assessments, improve teacher effectiveness and equity in teacher distribution, improve collection and use of data, and support struggling schools.
- [SB 6467](#) Authorizing honorary degrees for students who were ordered into internment camps.
- [HB 3026](#) Regarding school district compliance with state and federal civil rights laws. This law adds a new chapter to the school code prohibiting discrimination based on race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, veteran or military status, or disability. In addition, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction must write rules to implement this law and private law suits under this law are permitted.
- [HB 2621](#) Designating resource programs for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction in K-12 schools. Directs the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to designate three high schools to be "lighthouses" that offer technical assistance and advice to schools regarding best practices in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) instruction. The districts where the high schools are located must have experience offering model STEM programs.
- [HB 2801](#) Regarding anti-harassment strategies in public school. Directs the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to revise and update the model harassment, intimidation, and bullying prevention policy. School districts must revise their policies to be consistent with OSPI, and the Office of the Education Ombudsman is the lead agency to provide anti-harassment resources and tools for parents and families.

Highlights of legislative discussions in the areas of **HEALTH CARE** and **HUMAN SERVICES**:

- [SB 6726](#) Making the governor the public employer of language access providers. The Office of Financial Management must establish a workgroup on language access services. The workgroup is to develop a plan to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services by September 30, 2010.
- [HJR 4220](#) Amending the state Constitution so that the provision relating to bailable crimes by sufficient sureties is modified. A judge may deny bail to a person charged with an offense punishable by life in prison. The legislature will determine denial of bail standards.

Highlights of legislative discussion on **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** include:

- [SB 6575](#) Concerning the recommendations of the joint legislative task force on the underground economy. This requires contractors who fail to register with the Department of Labor and Industries to take a training course, and be eligible for a reduced penalty for a first time offense. For a contractor that engages in certain unregistered contractor activity, they could be found to have committed a Class C felony after a third infraction.
- [SB 6667](#) Concerning business assistance programs. The Department of Commerce and the Washington Small Business Development Center will jointly prepare an actionable plan for increased access to capital and technical assistance beginning with the 2011-2013 biennium. The plan is to be presented to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2010.
- [HB 1096](#) Enhancing small business participation in state purchasing. Requires the Departments of General Administration, Information Services, and Transportation to develop a plan to increase the number of small businesses receiving state contracts for goods and services by 2014. General Administration and the Governor is to report to the Legislature every July 1 beginning in 2011.

Highlights of legislative discussion on **IMMIGRATION** include:

- Both the Senate and House proposed language to include the following: Offender Deportation - Savings are attributed to deporting non-citizen drug and property offenders. The proposal assumes that all qualifying non-citizen offenders are deported in FY 2011 and that qualifying newly-sentenced non-citizen offenders are deported as soon as they come to prison. This language is a carry-over from last year, and is tied to [House Bill 2188](#) and [Senate Bill 6183](#). Neither bills passed. Advocates that worked to block passage of these bills are now working to strike this language from the budget. They argue that no savings would be attributed to the passage of these bills, in addition to having an adverse impact to offenders of communities of color.

You can find more information through our e-legislative update and Web site on events of interest during this special session. Our e-legislative update provides a general overview of a few bills of interest to the Asian Pacific American community while our [Web site](#) hosts a more extensive [list of bills](#) for those community members seeking more information.

To find out more information on bills signed by the Governor, [click here](#).

The Senate Committee Services produces a comprehensive document on bills passed in the 2010 legislative session by committee of origin, to view this document, [click here](#).

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**CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business,**

**education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.**

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